

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended, claims 1 and 14 are amended and claims 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter claimed therein. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 14 can be found at least in claims 15 and 16, respectively. Thus, no new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 15 and 16 contain allowable subject matter. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for allegedly containing informalities. By this Amendment, the Abstract is replaced with the attached amended Abstract. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action objects to the specification for allegedly containing informalities. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the specification uses references to claim numbers to describe the subject matter within the specification. By this Amendment, the specification is amended responsive to the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ramsey (U.S. Patent No. 1,413,935). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Specifically, by this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 14 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 15 and 16, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are patentable over Ramsey. Claims 3, 6, 8, 9 and 11 are patentable at least for their dependencies from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects: (1) claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhmonen (U.S. Patent No. 5,248,042) in view of Girts (U.S. Patent No. 5,292,006) and Hahn (U.S. Patent No. 4,627,576); and (2) claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhmonen in view of Girts and Hahn, and further in view of Greene (U.S. Patent No. 4,665,772). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

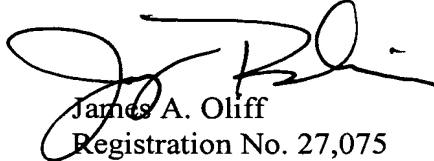
Specifically, by this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 15. Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Kuhmonen, Girts, Hahn and Greene. Claims 2-13 are patentable at least for their dependencies from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amended Abstract

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